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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/RHS AMY OSTERMEIER AND GAYATRI PATEL

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ITALY PLEASED WITH U.S. REENGAGEMENT IN UN HRC

REF: STATE 18282

Poloff delivered reftel demarche February 27 to MFA Human Rights Desk Officer Filippo Cinti informing Italy of U.S. reengagement in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and our decision not to participate further in negotiations on the draft outcome document of the Durban Review Conference. Cinti said Italy was pleased to hear the U.S. would once again participate in the HRC, which he thought would strengthen the hand of those pressing for reforms to make it a more balanced, useful body. Cinti said Italy had been very pleased with the U.S. decision to send a delegation to Geneva to participate in Durban negotiations, and said Italy (and the EU) shared many of our concerns. He took note of our disappointment with the current document, and said the EU was still working to formulate a common position in response to the draft.

DIBBLE